

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Beth Feisthamel <eafeist@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 7:27 PM  
**To:** Chris O'Brien  
**Subject:** HB No. 7171/ Telemedicine

I am writing to strongly encourage support of HB 7171 in order to allow for ongoing treatment for the majority of patients relying upon telehealth, specifically behavioral health care. I treat a predominant eating disorder population in which interruption of their treatment would be catastrophic. Many are very concerned about the safety of meeting in-person during this covid pandemic and would be reluctant to remain in treatment if telehealth was not allowed, without barriers by the insurance industry such as prior authorizations, higher cost sharing and lack of parity.

This bill rightly addresses these burdensome aspects by mandating parity and removing prior authorizations to June 30, 2021.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Feisthamel, LICSW  
Bayside Counseling, LLC  
110 Main Street, Suite 202  
East Greenwich, RI 02818  
(401)263-3003 w  
(401)338-1321 m